## SDS seeks permit in Fremont County
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**The route is a fall-back plan for Colorado Springs' water-supply pipeline project.**

**By TRACY HARMON**
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CANON CITY - Fremont County officials on Thursday received an application for a special review use permit from Colorado Springs Utilities for its Southern Delivery System.

SDS is a plan by Colorado Springs Utilities to construct a 66-inch diameter pipeline from Pueblo Dam 43 miles north. While the city of Colorado Springs would pay for and receive 95 percent of the benefit, Security, Fountain and Pueblo West also are partners.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is studying seven alternatives, including the preferred Pueblo Dam option, as part of an Environmental Impact Statement review.

As part of a no-action alternative, the most likely course of action if Reclamation permits are denied, Colorado Springs proposes to extract water from the Arkansas River near Florence and pump it up a pipeline following Colorado 115. Return flows would come down Fountain Creek.

"It is our preference to use the valuable storage capacity of Pueblo Reservoir, since our residents have made significant investments in that facility," said John Fredell, SDS project director. "A pipeline from Pueblo Dam is the most direct and least expensive alternative; however, we also want to have the proper permitting in place for the alternative in Fremont County." Colorado Springs submitted a land-use permit application to Pueblo County on Aug. 20.

"It is in the best interest of our customers that we complete permitting for both Pueblo and Fremont counties at this time," Fredell said.

Fremont County Commissioner Ed Norden said staff must go through an extensive review process before the permit proposal is set on the agenda for the Fremont County Planning Commission. After the planning commission makes a recommendation, it will be up to the Fremont County Commissioners to make a final decision.